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n Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

3. Report Type and Dates Covered.

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4. Title and Subtitle.	itle and Subtitle.		5. Funding Numbers.		
A 1/8 Degree Model of	f the North	Pacific	Ocean	Program Element No.	61153N
		<del></del>	····	Project Nu	3103
6. Author(s). H. E. Hurlburt, E. J. Metzger, A. J. Wallcraft,				030	
			Task No.	030	
and P. J. Hogan		Accession No	DN258028		
7. Performing Organization Name(s) a	nd Address(es).	<del></del>	<del></del>	8. Performing Org	anization

Naval Oceanographic and Atmospheric Research Laboratory Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-5004 Report Number.

AB 90:323:113

9. Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Name(s) and Address(es).

Naval Oceanographic and Atmospheric Research Laboratory Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-5004 10. Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Report Number.

AB 90:323:113

11. Supplementary Notes.

\*Continued on next page EOS

12a. Distribution/Availability Statement.

12b. Distribution Code.

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

13. Abstract (Maximum 200 words).

Results from a 1/8 degree Pacific Ocean model (.125 degree, .176 degree resolution lat, long for each variable are compared with results from several versions of a model with 1/4 degree resolution. All of the models are layered primitive equation, cover the Pacific Ocean north of 20S, include marginal seas, and have a free surface. The 1/8 degree model has 2 layers and realistic topography. The versions of the 1/4 degree model are 1.5 and 3.5 layer reduced gravity and 2-layer finite depth with realistic topography or a flat bottom.

These models are used to show (1) the effects of horizontal resolution and vertical structure on flow instabilities and (2) the relative importance of time-varying wind and flow instabilities in producing a time dependent oceanic response. For example, flow instabilities are most widespread in the 3.5 layer reduced gravity model. The barotropic mode has the largest impact on flow instabilities in the Kuroshio region. A salient difference between the 1/8 degree model corresponding 1/4 degree model the maximum occurs near the end of the inertial jet between 155 degree E and 160 degree E. In the 1/8 degree\*

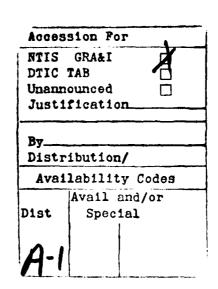
(U) Ocean Models;	15. Number of Pages.		
(U) Fronts (Oceand	16. Price Code		
17. Security Classification of Report.	18. Security Classification of This Page.	19. Security Classification of Abstract.	20. Limitation of Abstract.
Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	SAR

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev 2-89)

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\*model they are much more widespread, extending from south of Japan to 160 degree E and northward to about 40 degree N and the subarctic front, more like the RMS variability patterns from GEOSAT altimetry. All of the models simulate the basic fea-tures of the North Pacific, including the subtropical and subpolar gyres, the major current systems (Kuroshio, Oyashio, North Equatorial, Mindanao, North Equatorial Countercurrent) and associated fronts including the subarctic and the Kuroshio extension. Only the models with realistic topography exhibit the bifurcation of the Kuroshio at the Shatsky rise and only the 3.5-layer reduced gravity model simulates the equatorial undercurrent.



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A 1/8° Model of the North Pacific Ocean

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Results from a 1/8° Pacific Ocean model (.125°, .176° resolution lat, long for each variable) are compared with results from several versions of a model with 1/4° resolution. All of the models are layered primitive equation, cover the Pacific Ocean north of 20S, include marginal seas, and have a free surface. The 1/8° model has 2 layers and realistic topography. The versions of the 1/4° model are 1.5 and 3.5 layer reduced gravity and 2-layer finite depth with realistic topography or a flat bottom.

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